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the clear income arising from the land, than for government to have a share of the land itself, as was the case in Egypt, or a part of the produce, as practised by the Chinese and Hebrews.

One object of the labours of the class was to produce designs for medals, to commemorate the grand events of the times. Two opposite opinions have arisen on this point. Some of the members are for exhibiting these in a figurative or emblematic manner, conformably to the principles generally admitted by artists, without any regard to times, places, or persons. Mr. Dupont, who is of the opposite opinion, has exhibited his reasons in two papers. He contends, that they should be completely historical, and that they should convey to all ages an accurate idea of the event, and of the time and place. The inscriptions therefore should be in French; and all the accessories, as well as the costume, should be faithful records of our arts, sciences and manners. Thus the ancients did, and we, while we blindly copy them, without adopting their

principles, stick to the dead letter, and neglect the spirit of their practice. In his second paper Mr. Dupont, applies this theory to some of the medals proposed.

The class not adopting the ideas of Mr. Dupont, Mr. Quatremère de Quincy has written a long paper in defence of the opposite theory.

Many other papers, the Reporter, Mr. Ginguené, passes over with barely mentioning them; as a Geographical and Historical Memoir on the Island of Salamis, by Mr. la Porte-du-Theil, intended as part of a larger work: an Account of the Tomb of Mausolus, by Mr. de Sainte-Croix, likewise a Fragment: Observations on the Zodiac of Dendera, by Dupuis, printed separately, and New Explanations of the Chronological and Mythological Zodiac, by the same: an Inquiry into the Origin, History, and Literary Labours of the Manchout Tartars, by Mr. Langles, intended for separate publication: and a General Introduction to the first part of a History of Modern Literature, which Mr. Ginguené is preparing to publish.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Advice and Directions to Hackney Coachmen, including some Practical Hints to Drivers in general, together with incidental allusions to several other elevated Characters, 12mo. p.p. 53 Dublin: Martin, 1809, price 1s. 8d.

MANY attempts have been made to imitate Swift's popular pamphlet of advice to Servants, and some of them not without success. Among others we remember one addressed to Soldiers, which, though written by a person who had never been in a military capacity, when read to a superannuated veteran, had such an effect on him that he was highly delighted, and cried out "this fellow knows us as well as ourselves." Were we to judge in the same manner of the present production, we would be strongly induced to think that the author was in the habit of familiar intercourse with the class that he addresses. It has some wit, chiefly

BELFAST MAG. NO. XI.

of that broad kind, for which the lower classes in this country are so famous, a great deal of cant collected chiefly from the slang of hackney drivers, and so far it deserves credit, as these are necessary to mark the character of an Irish coachman, but it is in several places very gross, and in one or two almost bordering on the obscene.

Yet it may not be without its use. Swift's intention was to correct errors by exposing them. He wished either to direct the servant to what he ought to do by telling him the contrary ironically, or to put the employers on their guard by publishing those little frauds and knaveries, which though some of them are too dull, and and others too negligent to detect, can be easily seen through, by such as have been put on their guard. Some of the tricks of hackney-drivers are here exposed in the same way; NRG

and as most of these are played off on us country bumpkins, who are not *up to the town*, a few hints might not be without their use to us, when travelling in Dublin, were they told in a manner that did not occasionally excite our disgust. For our part, we freely confess that we are decided enemies to such books as must be crammed into our pockets whenever our wives or daughters turn the handle of the door; and are rather ill inclined towards those in which when reading to a female audience, we come unexpectedly to a full stop, and are obliged to turn over a page or two, and get ourselves out of the scrape as well as we can, with "well let's see what comes next."

The greediness of hackney coachmen is their most remarkable quality and of course most dwelt upon here, it is so proverbial, that there is a story current of two gentlemen, one of whom having said that it was impossible to satisfy them, the other proposed for a bet to prove the contrary. He accordingly took a coach off the stand, and having driven one or two streets, gave the driver a guinea. The fellow looked at it, and instead of offering to give change, or even to put it in his pocket and thank his employer, followed him with his hat in his hand; "Please your honour, wont you allow me something to drink?"

Their tricks to extort an extra tenpenny, are very humorously described.

"When you wait upon a gentleman who happens to be in a violent hurry to his dinner where he expects to be too late; if by the way of being particularly clever, and to prevent any *scrimmage* with you in his friend's hall, he pays you a shabby fare in his own; grumble and abuse as much and as long as you can with safety to yourself; always keeping the fear of God and the Alderman before your eyes, on such occasions. But if the fellow is hard hearted, and wont listen to reason, take the rascal at least half a mile round, and drive him *by act of parliament*; that is to say at the rate of two miles and a half an hour. First mistake the street, and then the house; when you are set right, give half a dozen of the

loudest and genteel hackneyman's *whoops* in driving up to the door, so that the company who are done their dinner may hear you distinctly, and not mistake the vulgar gingle of a *jowl*, for the fashionable rattle of a gentleman's chariot. If it rains, stop obliquely in the gutter, and as far from the door as you decently can, slap down your whip on the roof of the coach with as loud a report as comes from the mouth of a six-pounder; alight and knock at the door as if the knocker slipped out of your fingers; open your coach, and let down your step with as much harmony, as if you were emptying a cart load of paving stones, follow your man into the hall and half way into the dinner parlour, dunning his honour all the while for an extra tenpenny for your expedition. If his pride or his passion gets the better of him, and he gives you a bang that knocks a parcel of your teeth down your throat, I pronounce you a lucky dog: your fortune is made in a crack. Prosecute the paltry rascal for an assault, tip the footman of the house share of a pot and he will be your witness, vociferate in the hall till the gentleman of the house sends you some silver to get rid of you; then mount your box, denouncing terrible vengeance, and drive off, roaring as loud as if every bone in your carcass was broke—"

It is not to be expected that a writer of this stamp will confine his whip to the beasts he is driving, and not give a lash *en passant*, to what ever flies in his way. Among others we find a severe cut at a body well known and much spoken of (though not always in the most lavish terms of approbation) in Dublin.

"Never demand your fare, my lads, from any of their worships, the police magistrates in Clarendon-street. All is not lost, let me tell you, that a friend gets, and an acquaintance at court may be often useful to a hackney coachman in adversity."

Another hint of the same nature deserves a little more consideration, as we are all more or less concerned in it, and it were well, if it were thought upon by those against whom it is levelled. It is well known that by an old rule in the Dublin col

lege the gates are locked every night at a quarter after twelve precisely, after which hour none of the students who may have transgressed the proper time for retiring home, are permitted to enter until five the next morning, during which time, they are left to shift for themselves. It is needless to add that there are in so large a city, many convenient houses, where young men who have plenty of money, or in default of that, valuable articles of dress, may be accommodated with a night's lodging; that the reception they meet with is such as seldom fails to induce them to renew the visit, whatever aversion they may have conceived against such places, from former report, and that at such late hours persons are to be found whose sole employment is to allure young men thus circumstanced into such receptacles.

"At an advanced hour of the night, and long after common working hours, an industrious hackneyman may let lodgings to very considerable advantage. The first floor of a hackney-coach, though unfurnished, often proves very acceptable quarters, to small families that can find no better accommodation, and to idle college boys, who are very wisely locked out of their chambers by the monks of trinity, for the purpose of improving their morals."

It is worthy of remark that these monks of trinity, the Professors, or as they are styled in that seminary, the fellows of the college, not having the same regard to the improvement of their own morals, are admissible at all hours, this however is a privilege seldom taken advantage of, as most of them have wives and families in the city, where they reside, and leave the interior of the college to take care of itself.

There is one part of this pamphlet peculiarly exceptionable and meriting the strongest reprobation as it displays a licentiousness of the press, not only contrary to its true liberty but subversive of it, and which like all other political abuses of the same nature must tend to the destruction of that liberty of which it makes a bad use, we mean the custom of dragging before the public, private characters,

or even the private life of public characters, in which the public has no concern and therefore no right to inspect. This custom, we believe was first brought into vogue, by a certain ill-natured, though witty pamphlet, called "*Familiar Epistles, &c.*" which was written for a local purpose in Dublin, but is now well known through all parts of the kingdom. We name it not now to deprecate the main intention of the writer; this was good; the Dublin stage had fallen into a most contemptible state of insipidity, and it required the strongest, and most active remedies to rouse it from its lethargy. If therefore the stage is to be considered as one of the engines for improving the public manners, such an attempt to bring it into action is praise-worthy. Neither do we wish to depreciate its merit, which is now established by one of the strongest proofs, that of its being read and approved of by those who never saw the persons introduced into it, and are slightly, if at all acquainted with most of the circumstances alluded to; but we blame the introduction of private anecdote, as faulty in itself as an arbitrary exertion of power which no writer ought to exert. In the "*Familiar Epistles*" it was but slight and incidental, but being sanctioned by the merit and success of the other parts, it gave a handle to others, who possessed his spleen, without his abilities. They soon seized upon it, and by imitating the only part they were capable of imitating, gave their insipid productions a degree of temporary vogue, depending on the encouragement of the worst passions, that has excited a succession of writers of the same stamp. Every writer of honour, every reader of candour or feeling, or even common honesty, every man who is averse to have his little weaknesses or defects, or even personal deformities exposed, ought to set his face against such an outrage against the private rights of individuals. In the present publication this principle is professed in the title page, by the expression of "incidental allusions to several elevated characters." It is thrown out as a lure for purchasers, which proves that the evil has made some progress. Yet

here it has not even the excuse of doing evil that good may come from it, of acting the part of an intellectual physician, by publishing accounts of the diseases of individuals for the public benefit, for when we look into the work itself for these elevated characters who are ushered in with such verbose pomp, nothing is to be found but a very trigid witticism on the length of *Ponsonby's hose*, and on the recorder of Dublin, who, we are told, "piques himself upon the peculiar beauty of his countenance."—In another part, indeed, we meet with Lady Asgill, and a person styled "the Major of all the Majors," by whom we suppose is meant Charles Henry Sirt, the thief-taker. They may perhaps be public characters, but if they are looked upon as *elevated* characters in Dublin, we can only say that the difference of one degree of latitude makes a very great change in the signification of a word.

We have dwelt at some length on an insignificant production; if indeed any production can be called by such a name, which may be the cause of much good or harm; a trifle such as this will fall into the hands of many whose ideas will unavoidably receive some bias from the perusal; and it is therefore our wish to have the press, the Irish press so immaculate that nothing can meet the eye of the meanest, the lowest of our countrymen, that may not have a tendency to improve their hearts. An inspection of penny ballads, would not be without its use. Q.

The Irish Chieftain and his Family.
By Theodore McElrille, 4 vols. 12mo.
p.p. 763. London, 1809. Price,
20s.

THE Reader who forms the least expectations on opening these volumes, will be least disappointed on closing them.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

HISTORY.

THE Geographical, Natural, and Civil History of Chili; translated from the Italian of the Abbé Don J. J. Rolina, 2 vols. 8vo. 18s.

History of the Life and Reign of Alexander the Great, from the Latin of Quintus Curtius Rufus, 2 vols. 8vo. 25s.

BIOGRAPHY.

The Life of George Romney esq. by Mr. Hayley, 4to. 2l. 2s.

Characters of the late Charles James Fox, Selected and in part written by Philopatis Varvicensis 2 vols. 8vo. 20s.

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

Travels in the South of France, and in the interior of the Provinces of Provence, Languedoc and the Limoren; by a route never before performed; being along the banks of the Loire, the Isère and the Garonne, through the greater part of their respective courses. Made by permission of the French Government in the summer of the years 1807, and 1808, by Lieut. Col. Pinkney, 4to. 1l. 5s.

Letters from Portugal and Spain, written during the march of the British Troops, under Sir John Moor, by an Officer, 8vo. 12s.

Travels of the late Duke du Chatelet

in Portugal; comprehending Interesting Details in respect of the Colonies, the Earthquake at Lisbon, M. de Pombal and the Court; translated from the French, by John Joseph Stockdale, 2 vols. 8vo. 16s.

An Account of Travels in Morocco, South Barbary and across the Atlas Mountains, made during a stay of sixteen years in that country; wherein will be found an account of the commercial relations of Tombouctoo, and the maritime States of the North of Africa; by James Grey Jackson, 4to. 2l. 2s.

Travels through Denmark and part of Sweden, during the Winter and Spring of the present year 1809; by James Macdonald, 8vo. 10s. 6d.

MEDICINE.

Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, published by the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London.

A Treatise on Local Inflammation, more particularly adapted to Diseases of the Eye; by Doctor Serny.

A practical Treatise on the certain Prevention and Cure of the Venereal Disease, being a complete Guide to this Complaint in all its varieties, by M. Caton, Surgeon, 2nd. Edit. 2s.